

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 SOE-02 DOE-15 NASA-01 OES-07

CEQ-01 NRC-05 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NEA-10 /171 W

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R 140543Z APR 78

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0424

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PEKING 1027

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR SPOP MPOL PARM CH UR CB VN XF XA

SUBJ: VICE FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES MIDDLE EAST, SALT AND
OTHER ISSUES

1. SUMMARY: VICE FOREIGN MINISTER HO YING, THE PRC'S TOP
AFRICAN SPECIALIST, MET WITH NORMAN LEAR AND A GROUP OF
TV PERSONALITIES AND WRITERS APRIL 13. HO COVERED A BROAD
RANGE OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, INCLUDING THE MIDDLE
EAST, SALT, THE SOVIET UNION, AND THE INDOCHINA SITUATION.
HO'S BASIC THEME WAS THAT THE UNITED STATES IS A DECLINING
POWER AND SHOULD "JOIN EFFORTS" WITH THE PRC TO "DEAL
WITH THE POLAR BEAR." HE ALSO CRITICIZED VIETNAM
IN THINLY VEILED TERMS. END SUMMARY.

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2. NORMAN LEAR AND A GROUP OF AMERICAN TELEVISION PERSONALITIES,
HERE AT THE INVITATION OF THE CHINESE PEOPLES
ASSOCIATION FOR FRIENDSHIP WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES,
MET WITH VICE FOREIGN MINISTER HO YING APRIL 13. HO,
THE PRC'S RANKING AFRICAN SPECIALIST, GAVE THE DELEGATION
A BROAD OVERVIEW OF WORLD AFFAIRS AND IMPRESSED SEVERAL MEMBERS

OF THE DELEGATION AS "ANIMATED" AND "DOMINEERING," EXHIBITING AN IMPRESSIVE GRASP OF DETAILS.

3. SOVIET UNION. THE BULK OF THE TWO AND ONE-HALF HOUR SESSION WAS TAKEN UP WITH A REVIEW OF PRC RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION. HO LECTURED ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS SINCE WORLD WAR II, GIVING THE NORMAL PRC ANALYSIS OF A DECLINING UNITED STATES AND AN INCREASINGLY AGGRESSIVE SOVIET UNION. HO CITED DETAILED STATISTICS, WHICH HE CLAIMED CAME FROM HENRY KISSINGER, TO ILLUSTRATE HOW THE SOVIET UNION HAS SURPASSED THE UNITED STATES IN MILITARY STRENGTH BETWEEN 1964 AND 1974. HO ALSO SAID THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS CURRENTLY SPENDING MORE. RELATIVE

TO TOTAL GNP, THAN THE UNITED STATES. THE UNITED STATES HAS BECOME "VERY TIMID" SINCE THE VIETNAM WAR AND HE EXPRESSED PESSIMISM THAT THE US COULD CONTINUE TO MEET THE SOVIET THREAT. HE SAID THAT THE SOVIET UNION, LHTH ITS HIGHLY CENTRALIZED ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SYSTEM CAN ONLY INFLUENCE WORLD EVENTS BY MILITARY MEANS. THE UNITED STATES, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS TO RELY ON CAPITAL TO INFLUENCE OTHERS BECAUSE OF ITS DIVERSIFIED ECONOMY AND COMPETING POLITICAL GROUPS. THE UNITED STATES EVEN CONTINUES TO AID THE SOVIET UNION. THE SOVIET UNION AND
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EASTERN EUROPE HAVE BORROWED \$40 BILLION FROM THE UNITED STATES. THE UNITED STATES IS HELPING THE SOVIET UNION TO OVERCOME ITS WEAKEST AREAS BY SELLING GRAIN AND TRANSFERRING SOPHISTICATED TECHNOLOGY.

4. SALT. HO DESCRIBED SALT AND DISARMAMENT AS A "FRAUD". SUCH TALKS ONLY ENCOURAGE SOVIET AGGRESSION; IN FACT, THE ARMS RACE HAS INTENSIFIED SINCE THE DISCUSSIONS STARTED. ONE DELEGATION MEMBER ASKED ABOUT THE US DECISION TO DELAY PRODUCTION OF THE NEUTRON BOMB. HO REPLIED THAT THIS IS A QUESTION FOR THE US TO DECIDE. "YOU HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THIS FACT, THE SOVIET UNION WANTS TO OPPOSE SOMETHING WHICH THE US HAS, BUT THE SOVIET UNION DOES NOT."

5. MIDDLE EAST. HO WAS ALSO ASKED WHAT ARE THE PRECONDITIONS FOR PRC RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL. HO LAUNCHED INTO AN EXTENDED AND DETAILED DISCOURSE ON THE HISTORY OF THE MIDDLE EAST BEGINNING SOME 2000 YEARS AGO, TO THE BALFOUR DECLARATION AND THE POST 1947 SITUATION. PREVIOUSLY,

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R 140543Z APR 78
FM USLO PEKING
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PEKING 1027

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

THE UNITED STATES WAS ONE-SIDED IN ITS RELATIONS WITH
THE MIDDLE EAST. NOW, THERE HAS BEEN SOME CHANGE,
HE MAINTAINED. WHILE THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES
T SUPPORT ISRAEL, IT IS IMPROVING ITS RELATIONS
WITH THE ARAB STATES. THE UNITED STATES IS DOING
THIS BECAUSE ITS INTERESTS LIE MAINLY WITH THE ARAB
STATES. "WE THINK THIS IS BETTER THAN THE PREVIOUS
US PRACTICE. HOW MUCH SAY CAN THE US HAVE OVER THE
REGION? THIS DEPENDS ON THE AMOUNT OF LEVERAGE
THAT THE US CAN EXERCISE OVER ISRAEL. THE CHINESE
ARE NOT AGAINST THE JEWISH CEUPLE. AFTER ALL, MARX
WAS A JEW. HOWEVER, THE CHINESE PEOPLE ARE AGAINST
EXPANSION." DELEGATION MEMBERS PERSISTED AND ASKED
AGAIN ABOUT PRC RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL. HO REPLIED
THAT IF ALL MIDDLE EAST NATIONS RECOGNIZED ISRAEL,
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THEN MAYBE THE PRC DOULD AS WELL. HE ADDED: "IT

IS NOT REALISTIC TO TALK ABOUT DESTROYING ISRAEL."

5. AFRICA. HO SAID THAT AFRICA USED TO BE UNDER WESTERN INFLUENCE BUT NOW THE SOVIET UNION HAS "SNEAKED" INTO THE AREA. THE SOVIET UNION IS ON THE OFFENSIVE, AND THE UNITED STATES IS ON THE DEFENSIVE IN AFRICA. HOWEVER, AFRICA IS ONLY A DIVERSION SINCE THE REAL TARGET IS EUROPE--A THEME HE EMPHASIZED SEVERAL TIMES.

6. CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM. "BOTH ARE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. ANY DISPUTE BETWEEN THE TWO SHOULD BE SETTLED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS. WE OPPOSE THE RESOLUTION OF PROBLEMS THROUGH THE USE OF FORCE. ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS, THE WAR IS BEING FOUGHT WITHIN CAMBODIA. OUR POSITION IS THE FIGHTING SHOULD STOP AND THE TROOPS BE WITHDRAWN TO THEIR OWN BORDERS. WE ARE AGAINST COUNTRIES WHO TRY TO ESTABLISH HEGEMONY OVER OTHER AREAS. SHOULD CHINA BULLY ITS NEIGHBORS, IT COULD NOT BE CALLED A GENUINE SOCIALIST COUNTRY, THEN IT WOULD BE AN IMPERIALIST COUNTRY. THEN YOU SHOULD JOIN THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD TO OVERTHROW CHINA."

7. PRC MILITARY BUDGET, HALDEMAN BOOK, INEVITABILITY OF WAR. HO WAS ASKED ABOUT THE PRC MILITARY BUDGET BUT HE GAVE FEW DETAILS. HE SAID THAT CHINA IS A POOR COUNTRY AND ITS WEAPONS ARE ONLY DEFENSIVE. "THE BUDGET IS NOT LARGE. THE STRENGTH IS OUR 900 MILLION PEOPLE. IF THE SOVIETS INVADE, WE CAN EVEN GIVE UP SOME BIG CITIES AND CLOSE THE DOOR BEHIND THEM. WEAPONS ARE ALSO IMPORTANT. NTE BUILD HYDROGEN AND ATOMIC BOMBS." HE WAS ASKED ABOUT THE HALDEMAN BOOK AND ITS ASSERTION THAT THE UNITED STATES WARNED CONFIDENTIAL

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THE SOVIET UNION NOT TO ATTACK CHINA IN 1969. HO DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE AND SAID HE HAD "NO EVIDENCE." "IF THE SOVIET UNION STRIKES, WE ARE READY. WE ARE NOT AFRAID OF CONVENTIONAL NOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS. IF THE SOVIET UNION WANTS TO INVADE CHINA, IT WOULD HAVE TO MOVE ITS TROOPS FROM EASTERN EUROPE TO THE SINO-SOVIET BORDER. THEN THE UNITED STATES WOULD KICK THEM IN THE REAR." HO ALSO SAID THAT HE THOUGHT WAR IS INEVITABLE, BUT THAT IT CAN BE POSTPONED. "WE HOPE TO POSTPONE IT LONG ENOUGH SO WE CAN ACHIEVE THE FOUR MODERNIZATIONS." AT ONE POINT, HO EVEN SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA "MUST JOIN EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH THE POLAR BEAR."

9. REQUEST DEPARTMENT REPEAT TO OTHER POSTS AS APPROPRIATE.

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Message Attributes

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